The Electric Vehicle - Experience driving a Leading Environmentally-friendly Affordable Family car (LEAF).

Although our dealer was friendly and fair, it was not easy to purchase a LEAF in 2014. The franchise had no models on-site; their information racks, rife with literature on fossil-fueled models, contained no literature on our choice; and, oddly, our designated salesman failed to return phone calls following an offer that was ultimately accepted. Therefore, we were not entirely surprised that, in the intervening years, we have never seen a local TV ad for the 'Made in America' electric vehicle (EV) we purchased.

We now realize that there were sound business reasons for a marketer's disinterest in promoting electric vehicle sales. Auto dealers reportedly derive three times as much profit on vehicle service as on purchases. If so, our experience may illustrate their dilemma since our vehicle has never been taken back for maintenance or component replacements. Lacking transmissions, oil and air filters, starting motors, carburetors, gasoline tanks, radiators, tail pipes, catalytic converters, and more, EVs require minimal attention. And thanks to energy-conserving regenerative braking, even those vital vehicle components generate less noise and experience less wear.

In Missouri, auto sales forces are not the only ones lacking enthusiasm for the now widely projected advent of electric locomotion. Reactionary political opposition has long proposed EV sales restrictions. Substantive Missouri 'gas taxes' have also been levied in the guise of *'annual decal fees for EVs'* (currently, $81 per year) presumably to compensate for losses in gas tax revenue for highway development and maintenance.

So, here'a a little arithmetic problem for you. If you have driven 17,471 miles in an EV over the past 6 years and 10 months, and if that EV has averaged 114 miles per fossil fuel gallon equivalent, and if you paid the State of Missouri $554.50 in decal fees (gas taxes), how much tax did you pay per gallon of fossil fuel not used by your EV?

Moreover, if you are a conservationist, you might also want to estimate how much financial credit the State should be awarding you for lessening your contribution to the discharge of planet-warming gases?

Many will cite drawbacks to owning electric vehicles; limited range and over-the-road recharging opportunities first among them. However, for those of us with short commutes plus access to 120 volt electrical power, the era of the battery-powered automobile is here - and one might add electric scooters, bicycles and mopeds to that mix.

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2008 Toyota Prius (46 mpg), 2014 Nissan LEAF EV (114 mpge, fueleconomy.gov)